

BA93-3
G-689

UNCLASSIFIED

11/10/77

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VV ESB060ASA207
RR RUESBA
DE RUESAS #4621 3141658
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 101643Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1549
INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 3629
BT

ASUNCION 4621

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: EPIFANO MENDEZ FLEITAS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8231

TO	ACI	INF	TO	ACI	INF
AMB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DAO		
DCM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LC/IT		
			EPN		
POL	3		FS		
ECOM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AID		
POL/R		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ICC		
CO S					
ADM					
USIS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
SCI			CHRON		
BY			RF		

1. ACCORDING TO A HIGH LEVEL PARAGUAYAN OFFICIAL SOURCE CONSIDERED RELIABLE, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SHORTLY AFTER ARRESTING MOPOCO LEADER MENDEZ OFFERED TO EXCHANGE HIM FOR SUSPECTED ERP LEADER AMILCAR SANTUCHO, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION IN PARAGUAY SINCE ENTERING PARAGUAY WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS IN MAY, 1976. (SEE SEPTTEL.)

2. SOURCE SAID GOP WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROPOSED SWOP SINCE IT HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MENDEZ' ARREST AND DID NOT WANT TO BE SADDLED WITH YET ANOTHER POLITICAL PRISONER PROBLEM.

3. A FEW DAYS AFTER MENDEZ' ARREST, THE GOP SENT AN EMISSARY FROM J-2 (ARMY INTELLIGENCE) TO RESISTENCIA TO FIND OUT WHY MENDEZ HAD BEEN DETAINED AND IF HE HAD BEEN IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN ANTI-PARAGUAYAN OR ANTI-ARGENTINE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. HIS CONCLUSION WAS THAT MENDEZ HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITY BUT THAZ THE ONLY APPARENT REASON FOR HIS DETENTION WAS THE PROPOSED DEAL INVOLVING SANTUCHO. THE EMISSARY HAD REPORTED MENDEZ TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MISTREATED.

4. SOURCE EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST THE EMISSARY'S VISIT TO RESISTENCIA BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND BE MISINTERPRETED ABROAD AS GOP INVOLVEMENT IN MENDEZ' ARREST.

BRIGGS

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#4621

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SIF93

49/52

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason